

United States Marshals Service



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. MARSHALS 15 MOST WANTED FUGITIVE CAPTURED IN BELIZE

Fugitive Michael Webster, wanted by the U.S. Marshals as one of their top 15 most wanted individuals, was apprehended after a brief foot pursuit at approximately 7:00 p.m. EST, Monday, in Ladyville, Belize by U.S. Diplomatic Security Service officials and Belizean Police officers. The arrest was made based on information provided by Deputy U.S. Marshals from the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago.

"U.S. Marshals developed information that Webster was residing in Ladyville, Belize," explained Senior Inspector Geoff Shank of the Investigative Services Division. "Further investigation led the chase to Belize City and then to Ladyville."

Webster was wanted by the Chicago Police Department for a probation violation on a drug conviction in Cook County, IL. In addition to his probation violation, Webster is wanted on a warrant for three counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault where he allegedly sexually abused three children whom had been in the custody of Webster's mother. He will also be questioned as the primary suspect in a September 2001 Chicago homicide case that left one person dead and two injured.

U.S. Marshal Kim R. Widup, Northern District of Illinois, praised once again the cooperation of the

various law enforcement agencies. "This fugitive was captured quickly because of the significant level of cooperation that existed between the U.S. Marshals Service, the Chicago Police Department Fugitive Unit, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the Diplomatic Security Service, and the Resident Security officer in Belize," stated Widup. Widup further added "This is one more arrest of a violent sexual predator demonstrating that when outstanding law enforcement agencies such as these work together, there is no safe haven for fugitives."

Webster is being held in Belize City pending extradition.